

REMARKS**I. Examiner Interview**

Applicants' attorneys appreciate the Examiner's courtesy in speaking with them on March 4, 2008, regarding the outstanding office action. The interview included discussion of the §112 rejections. Applicants submit that the comments below reflect the substance of the interview.

II. Status

Claims 7 and 19 have been previously canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-6, 8-18, 20-67 are currently pending.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112 – Claims 1-6, 8-18, and 20-67 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite.Claims 1, 13, 25, 30, 41, 50, 56, 62, and Dependents

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "receiving, at a controlling device, a request to transmit data on a communications link from one of a plurality of embedded devices" and "wherein any one of the plurality of embedded devices is operable to be the controlling device when given the permission to transmit on the communications link."

The Examiner asserts that the identity of the controlling device is confusing. (Office Action, page 2). However, the claim language sets out a clear feature claimed by the Applicants, as discussed with the Examiner. For example, a controlling device receives a request to transmit data on a communications link. This request comes from one of a plurality of embedded devices. Any one of the embedded devices then becomes the controlling device when it is given permission to transmit on the communications link. The function of the controlling device switches between the embedded devices. Therefore, through time, different embedded devices become the controlling device for certain periods. Based on the claim language, Applicants believe the feature of having the controlling device be any one of the plurality of embedded devices *when given the permission to transmit* on the communications link is clearly recited.

Furthermore, claim 41 recites, *inter alia*, "receiving, at a first device of a plurality of embedded devices, a request to transmit data on a communications link

from a second device of the plurality of embedded devices, wherein the first device has permission to transmit data on the communications link” and “wherein any one of the plurality of embedded devices is operable to transmit data on the communications link and receive the request to transmit data when given the permission to transmit on the communications link.”

The language in claim 41 clearly states that there are a plurality of embedded devices, and a first device of the plurality of embedded devices receives a request to transmit data on a communications link. Therefore, the first device is in charge of controlling communications on the communications link because other embedded devices are requesting permission to transmit on the communications link. Claim 41 also states that any one of the embedded devices can become the device that receives requests to transmit data on the communications link *when given permission to transmit* on the communications link. Therefore, any one of the embedded devices, over time, can be in charge of controlling communications on the communications link.

Claims 13, 25, 30, 50, 56, and 62 also clearly recite features similar to the features of claims 1 and 41, respectively. Accordingly, the § 112 rejections of the independent claims and the respective dependent claims should be withdrawn.

IV. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 – Claims 1-3, 5, 8, 11, 13-16, 20, 23, 25, 30-33, 35-36, 39, 41-43, 45, 50-52, 56, and 62-64 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Callway, et al. (U.S. 6,279,067).

Claim 1 and Dependents

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “receiving, at a controlling device, a request to transmit data on a communications link from one of a plurality of embedded devices” and “wherein any one of the plurality of embedded devices is operable to be the controlling device when given the permission to transmit on the communications link.” Callway, et al. does not teach or suggest at least these features.

Callway, et al. discloses techniques to determine interrupt requests between a video interface port (“VIP”) host and VIP slaves. (Callway, et al., columns 3 and 4). The VIP host reads a shared interrupt request flag of one of the slave devices to determine if an interrupt request is pending. (Callway, et al., column 4, lines 9-11).

The VIP host and the VIP slaves communicate via a VIP bus 20. (Callway, et al., column 3, lines 4-5).

However, none of these passages disclose the claimed features. First, column 1, lines 36-38 of Callway, et al. disclose that the interrupt request is used to notify the host that attention is required, not that the interrupt request is for requesting permission to transmit on the VIP bus 20. Second, there is no teaching or suggestion that any one of the VIP slaves can become the VIP host when a VIP slave is given permission to transmit on the VIP bus.

The Examiner asserts that because any of the devices of Callway, et al. (VIP host and VIP slaves) can have permission to transmit on the bus, then any of the devices can be a controlling device. (Office Action, page 3). However, claim 1 recites that the controlling device is the device that receives a request to transmit data on a communications link, and the VIP host of Callway, et al. is the only device that is capable of receiving interrupt requests, not any one of the VIP slaves. The VIP host is the controlling device that receives the interrupt signal and always remains the controlling device. Therefore, there is no teaching or suggestion that any one of a plurality of embedded devices is operable to be a controlling device when given the permission to transmit on a communications link.

Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable for at least these reasons. Claims 2-6, 8-12, and 28 depend, directly or indirectly, from allowable claim 1 and, therefore, are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 13, 25, 30, 41, 50, 56, and 62 and Dependents

Claims 13, 25, 30, 41, 50, 56, and 62 recite features similar to the features of claim 1 described above. The arguments made in regards to claim 1 appropriately apply to claims 13, 25, 30, 41, 50, 56, and 62 as well.

Accordingly, claims 13, 25, 30, 41, 50, 56, and 62 are allowable for at least those reasons. Claims 14-18, 20-24, 29, 26-27, 31-40, 42-49, 51-55, 57-61, and 63-67 depend, directly or indirectly, from allowable claims 13, 25, 30, 41, 50, 56, and 62, respectively, and, therefore, are allowable for at least the same reasons.

V. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

A. Claims 4, 9, 10, 17, 21-22, 27-29, 34, 37-38, 44, and 61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Callway, et al.

Claims 4, 9, 10, 17, 21, 22, 27-29, 34, 37, 38, 44, and 61 depend, directly or indirectly, from respective allowable claims and, therefore, are allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above.

Additionally, regarding claims 9, 21, and 37, the Examiner takes Official Notice that the use of general purpose processors is well known and that it would have been obvious to modify Callway, et al. with general purpose processors. However, it would not make sense to modify the VIP slaves of Callway, et al. to be general purpose processors because the use of an entire general purpose processor is not logical for just performing tasks of a VIP slave. Applicants request a reference as a basis for the rejection. Accordingly, claims 9, 21, and 37 are allowable for at least this reason.

Regarding claims 10, 22, and 38, the Examiner takes Official Notice that a radio telephone is well known and that it would have been obvious to modify Callway, et al. with a radio telephone device. Column 1, lines 13-14 disclose that the VIP host and VIP slave features would be part of a DVD player or television display, not a radio telephone. Applicants request a reference as a basis for the rejection. Accordingly, claims 10, 22, and 38 are allowable for at least this reason.

Regarding claim 29, the Examiner takes Official Notice that a CDMA processor is well known and that it would have been obvious to modify Callway, et al. with a CDMA processor. Callway, et al. discloses a VIP host and VIP slaves. It would not make sense to modify the VIP slaves to be a CDMA processor because the CDMA processor is used for telecommunication processing and is not under the VIP standard. Also, Callway, et al. would be altered beyond its original purpose. Applicants request a reference as a basis for the rejection. Accordingly, claim 29 is allowable for at least this reason.

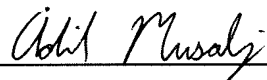
B. Claims 6, 12, 18, 24, 26, 35, 40, 46-49, 53-55, 57-60, and 65-67 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Callway, et al. in view of Iwata, et al. (U.S. 7,058,741).

Claims 6, 12, 18, 24, 26, 35, 40, 46-49, 53-55, 57-60, and 65-67 depend, directly or indirectly, from respective allowable claims and, therefore, are allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above.

VI. Summary

It is respectfully asserted that all of the pending claims are patentable over the cited references, and allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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